

Health Care Reform Talking Points

I come to speak in support of House Concurrent Resolution 22.

Michigan must take steps to enact health care reform legislation because:

- Over 1 million Michiganders do not have health insurance, causing hundreds of thousands of family's untold pain and suffering.
- For those that have health insurance, their health care premiums are going up, in part because uncompensated care costs are being shifted to them.
- Michigan is losing thousands of good paying jobs because local businesses that provide health benefits are having a very difficult time competing with foreign firms that do not provide health benefits because their home country does.
- Health care costs must be reduced for Michigan businesses if they are to compete and thrive.
- Michigan must begin to take action as Washington continues to turn a deaf ear to this crisis. Massachusetts and Maine have already taken action, and California is seriously looking for solutions.
- Governor Granholm has been outspoken in citing the need for reform and is developing a plan ("Michigan First") to expand health insurance coverage.
- We need health care reforms that:
 1. Provide health care coverage for the 1 million Michiganders that currently do not have health insurance.
 - So we can promote better care of Michigan citizen's e.g. preventative care
 - Slow down the use of emergency room for care which is very expensive.

- Stop the cost shifting of unpaid bills to those that provide insurance i.e. business.
2. Reform the health care delivery system so it is more effective and efficient in providing health care services.
 3. Enact cost saving measures to slow down the increase of health care premiums.
 - Examples: reduce administrative overhead use of standard forms.

Conclusion

- I thank Chairman, Rep. Virgil Smith for scheduling this important resolution and the sponsor, Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi.
- Although this resolution simply represents the intent of the legislature, it still is a good step to begin a conversation as to what we need to do.
- I urge all committee members to support this resolution.
- Thank-you.

John Freeman
(313) 655-7945
Jfreeman13@comcast.net